



Living Shorelines Initiative Grant Program

The Chesapeake Bay Trust and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in conjunction with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center (NOAA) and The Campbell Foundation are soliciting proposals to create and promote natural shoreline restoration projects, commonly known as “living shorelines,” around the Chesapeake Bay. The funding partners invite non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and state and local governments to submit applications for the Living Shoreline Initiative grant program.

The area where land and water intersect is important to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. When protected in its natural state or reestablished through restoration efforts, these shoreline areas provide important habitat for wildlife, trap sediment and filter pollution, and help to stabilize the shoreline from erosion. Unfortunately, many shorelines have been hardened over time with stone revetments or bulkheads that remove the ability of a shoreline to carry out the natural processes that are beneficial to the health of the Bay and its rivers.

Living shorelines emphasize the use of natural materials including marsh plantings, shrubs and trees, low profile breakwaters, strategically placed organic material, and other techniques that recreate the natural functions of a shoreline ecosystem.

This grant initiative is designed to reverse the trend of shoreline “hardening” by encouraging the creation of living shoreline restoration projects and by enhancing public awareness about the benefits of living shorelines.

Goals of the Living Shoreline Initiative

- Create living shoreline restoration projects on public property or on shared community property to serve as models for others to replicate;
- Create living shorelines on private land where there are assurances for long-term management (e.g., conservation easement or other signed agreement). Preference will be given for such projects where multiple property owners have committed to installing a larger-scale, contiguous living shoreline.
- Support monitoring activities to ensure living shoreline projects achieve their intended ecological objectives;
- Educate landowners, public agencies, and contractors about the benefits of living shorelines and the techniques used to establish these projects;
- Assist in the implementation of watershed restoration plans or assessments that specifically identify the creation of living shorelines as an action that improves the water quality and habitat of the system;
- Encourage the adoption of living shoreline projects broadly and, when possible, build on ongoing efforts to advance living shorelines on a watershed-wide basis;
- Involve volunteers and students in the creation of living shoreline projects; and,
- Leverage other funds and in-kind contributions.

Potential Project Examples

- On-the-ground shoreline restoration projects that replace existing bulkheads and stone revetments with tidal marsh, natural bank stabilization materials (e.g., coir fiber logs) and buffer plantings.
- Projects involving the installation of off-shore breakwater structures that utilize native oysters and submerged aquatic vegetation to dissipate erosive wave action.

- Training programs that provide landowners, developers, local officials and contractors with the “nuts and bolts” information of how living shorelines are designed, constructed, monitored, and maintained.
- Outreach activities, such as workshops and forums, that help educate citizens about the benefits of this practice will be considered.
- Monitoring of living shorelines projects to demonstrate their value in protecting shorelines and providing habitat benefits for fish and wildlife species.
- Proposals that combine elements of the examples above are encouraged.

Funding Range

The partnership anticipates awarding approximately \$425,000 under the second year of this new initiative. Individual grant requests of up to \$50,000 will be accepted. Projects should be completed in one year, starting at the time the grant is approved or, in cases where a permit is required, starting at the time the permit is approved. There is no commitment of additional grant funding beyond that period.

Eligible Funding Items

Eligible budget items include, but are not limited to:

1. Living shoreline restoration materials, including marsh grasses, native trees and shrubs, biologs, rock, sand and tools. Funding of heavy equipment to assist in the restoration project and the delivery of restoration materials may be requested, but the most competitive proposals will demonstrate an in-kind match to cover some of these expenses;
2. Staff and administrative expenses that directly support project related tasks, including design, implementation, monitoring, and maintenance;
3. Professional services, such as engineering and design work, installation, and monitoring. Applicants are encouraged to solicit in-kind contributions to cover some of these expenses;
4. Outreach materials that support recruiting, educating, and coordinating volunteers, and/or help promote living shoreline benefits to a broader public (e.g., interpretive

signs), and/or training programs that train landowners and contractors about the specifics of how living shorelines are constructed, and,

5. Monitoring and maintenance expenses to evaluate the effectiveness of the project versus its goals and to help maintain the project overtime to ensure long-term success.

Eligible Organizations

Non-profit organizations, such as local watershed organizations or conservation organizations, academic institutions, and local or state governments are eligible for funding through the living shoreline initiative.

The strongest proposals will show committed partnerships (those that provide funding, technical assistance, and in-kind support) from various organizations, institutions and government agencies. Partnership organizations may include, but are not limited to:

- Private, nonprofit organizations
- Federal, state, and local government agencies
- Tributary teams
- Community associations, civic groups, churches
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Forestry boards
- Resource conservation and development councils
- Public and independent primary, intermediate, and secondary schools
- Public and independent higher educational institutions

Application Instructions

Applicants should use the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Stewardship Grant application form when applying to the Living Shoreline Initiative Grant Program. Please download the application form at www.chesapeakebaytrust.org, and click on Grant Opportunities.

Indicate on the application that you are applying to the Living Shoreline Initiative Grant Program.

If more time is needed to develop a project, proposals may also be submitted through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program in early 2006. Visit www.nfwf.org/chesapeake/ for additional information, deadlines, and an application form.

In preparing your application for submission, please follow the guidelines below. The guidelines will help you provide the most pertinent information in the various sections of the Chesapeake Bay Trust's application form.

Description of Requesting Organization Section: Briefly describe your organization or government agency. Highlight the relevant experience your organization or agency has had with completing living shoreline projects and/or promoting living shoreline initiatives. In addition, please explain how a grant through the Living Shoreline Initiative program will aid your organization or government agency in meeting its stated goals.

Description of Project Section: The following must be included in your description of the project:

1. Outline all phases of the project, including planning, organizing, implementation, monitoring, and outreach;
2. Describe the plans and provisions to maintain the project over time (e.g., establishment of conservation easement or signed agreement);
3. For on-the-ground restoration projects, please provide schematics/plans for the project. If the project requires permits, please explain the status of the permit application. Preference will be given to projects that have at least initiated the permit application process.

Due to the complexity of these projects, applicants proposing on-the-ground restoration projects are strongly encouraged to contact any of the funding partner contacts to identify technical assistance resources before applying.

(Note: For on-the-ground construction projects, successful applicants may be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary permits and clearances to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act and any other Federal, state or local ordinances). For questions on NEPA compliance, please contact Rich Takacs at rich.takacs@noaa.gov or 410-267-5672.

4. Project description should include a discussion of the anticipated ecological benefits (e.g., linear feet of shoreline to be restored, acreage of marsh to be restored, fish species to benefit).

5. Finally, highlight each of the partner organizations and the role they will play in implementing the project.

Budget Section: Provide a detailed budget including a breakdown of anticipated costs for staff salary and benefits, supplies and materials, contractual support, travel, equipment, and other direct expenses with justification of each budget item. Please describe the source of your cost estimates. Highlight matching funds and in-kind contributions. Projects that have at least a 1:1 cash or in-kind match including volunteer match may receive preference in the review process.

Describe Plans to Evaluate Project Success and Effectiveness Section: Describe how you will achieve project goals and maintain the project over time. There will be a preference for projects that include a strong monitoring component.

Application Deadline

Applications **are due by 5:00 pm on September 23, 2005**. Submit your application to Chesapeake Bay Trust, 60 West Street, Suite 405, Annapolis, MD 21401. Applications submitted by email or fax will not be accepted. Applicants who need additional time to develop a proposal are encouraged to apply through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants in early 2006. For more

information on the Small Watershed Grants Program, follow the application instructions at www.nfwf.org/chesapeake/.

Grant awards will be announced in February, 2006.

Contact Information

Due to the complexity of these projects, including determining project feasibility and the appropriate living shoreline restoration technique, applicants proposing on-the-ground projects are strongly encouraged to use the technical assistance available through the funding partners prior to filing an application. Please contact Rich Takacs at rich.takacs@noaa.gov or the other funding partners to identify sources of technical assistance before applying.

NOAA Restoration Center

Rich Takacs (for MD, DC, PA projects)

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The Campbell Foundation

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National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

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Chesapeake Bay Trust

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